

The Abiding Story

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Catherine's House & CW Farm Update

By Marcus & Chelsea

Our HIV+ Retreat program is going well!

During such a three-day event, our guests step into this timeless zone, where no mobile phones work and no urban noise disturbs them. As one of our HIV+ retreatants said, "The beautiful natural environment is such a healing element for me, especially coming from San Francisco where nature is limited."

Our guests still benefit from the "complete opposite of San Francisco" while on retreat, even without the livestock and home-grown fresh veggies in the meals (we do have some frozen crops of last year's surplus). We look forward to resuming such farming activities in the future. For now we are undergoing a makeover, as the 20 to 90-year old pines get moved away from Catherine's House and the other buildings. The contemporary pestilence of the pine bark beetle is keeping us occupied as we safely take down 160 beetle-killed trees.



Recently a group of two dozen young people in fire-fighters boot camp in Sheep Ranch came up the hill to help manage our forestry troubles. They were all new to this—most of them held a chainsaw for the first time just a few days before training here! Here they are after a 4-hour shift:



This is true in-the-field education. Most 20-somethings in our country have never visited a rural intentional community of faith-based spiritual activists, and we felt glad to offer these budding first-responders a beautiful training ground. The magic of Earth Abides is the flip-side of the Catholic Worker practice of giving hospitality: "The land offers hospitality to us humans." God bless them as they go forward to accomplish Cal Fire's mission—they might save a few lives in the coming years. And we have oodles more work to do to address the fire hazard and clean up the next forest-fire's fuel—these dry and slowly rotting tree carcasses.

Even though our work is different in 2018 CE, we still need your donations to help us continue paying land-tax, phone bills, automotive repairs, etc. while we continue operating Catherine's House retreat center. We really want to resume the traditions of growing Scalzo Beans and Scalzo Tomatoes (as well as the other crops) and companionship with livestock (bringing back goats, alpacas, chickens, etc.), **so please help us!**

Donate today! Checks can be made out to Earth Abides and mailed to 16777 Armstrong Rd, Sheep Ranch, CA 95246.



We are *eternally* grateful to all the volunteers of the past (too many to name here), and *currently* grateful for our three volunteer retreat chefs of the present (Broc, Celine & Susana). Those who came before us (especially Chris and Joan Montesano) have left spiritual gifts which are indelible here on the land surrounding Catherine's House. On behalf of all our volunteers and guests, we thank you for your support!

Dream of the Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm

By Thomas R. Spiritbringer

The energy of and for the future is Dreams. In Thomas Berry's epic book Dream of The Earth he states that the essential dream would be that Humanity would move from a destructive presence to a mutually enhancing beautiful presence on this planet. What is the dream of Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm here in N. California? What is the personal future dream of mine?

Earth Abides Farm celebrates 42 years of the fulfillment of many dreams; community, faith, ministry, renewable solar energy and bio-intensive mini-farming to name a few. Presently, our future dreams for the farm include new Catholic Worker community leadership who would companion this 80 acres of forest, houses, meadow, pond and gardens into a bright future. Within these dreams are many open possibilities.

Personally, my future dream would be for the Human Family to endorse, adopt and integrate our new The Universe Story Calendar (TUSC) so that we can reach that Dream of The Earth we so desperately need. That is why I will be on my "Trail Blazing The Universe Story Calendar" road trip crisscrossing the United States this Summer of 2018 CE. I will tell the Story of The Universe through this new world calendar chock full of reality, meaning and value.

So, on this TUSC road trip (SEE MAP BELOW) I will be stopping-in at **Catholic Worker Farms and Houses from Colorado to New York and Montana** to see if anyone wants to **hear about future dreams of Earth Abides CW Farm**. Maybe you, or someone you know, has experienced some California Dreaming lately. There's no time like the present!

For more information on the Farm, PLEASE contact Tom or Marcus at 209.728.2193 or EACWF@CatholicWorker.biz

While Tom's on the road, you can reach him via 209.813.0825, which forwards into the email account: OurEarthGuy@gmail.com



A Final Invitation...

Everyone is happy that Catherine's House continues a quarter-century tradition of HIV+ retreats each month (except for the excessively hot and terribly cold months). **Volunteers are welcome to help with retreats.** Contact us at the address below, follow Catherine's House on FB, tweet us @SaintFrancisCAL, or call our phones: 415.340.2143 and 209.728.2193

Another big ministry of the CW Farm is for folks needing a dose of "back-to-the-land" medicine. We are happy to continue our Craft Retreat hospitality, which this year will be on **the 25th of August, a Saturday, from 10am to 2pm**. We'll focus on alpaca wool, solar box cooking, and resumption of liturgical candle-making!

Our **current fiscal situation is about as low as it's ever been!** We have the annual insurance payment due in a month, and barely enough money to cover this month's HIV+ retreat. Our balance is running at around \$300, **so can you PLEASE HELP** by sending a donation today via the enclosed envelope, or online at pax.CatholicWorker.biz ?

**EARTH ABIDES LAND TRUST ASSOCIATION
16777 ARMSTRONG RD
MOUNTAIN RANCH CA 95246**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Here's some current, former & future Board members for the CW Farm:



L-R: Chelsea, Joan, Jennie, Chris, Paul, Peter, Phyllis, Tom...